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Commissioner's Corner

With the holiday season upon us, I'd like to start off by wishing every TDOC employee and your family happy holidays. I sincerely hope you make it a safe and enjoyable time of year.

It's been approximately two months since Governor Bredesen appointed me Commissioner for the Department of Correction, and I can honestly say it's good to be back. As I meet with central office staff and travel to various facilities, I've learned a lot already in such a short period of time. So much has changed since my first stint with the department yet the one common denominator remains: a dedicated, quality workforce.



I know our greatest resource is our people and that with the kind of staff that we have in place we can meet the many challenges that are ahead of us. I hope to build upon the solid management that is already in place, and I want to improve our staff retention and professionalism. My goal is to develop the department into a place where people are proud to work and hopefully a place that the citizens see as an asset, not a drain on taxpayer resources.

I am motivated by the chance to make a difference. I have seen countless men and women exit our jails and prisons and turn their lives around. I want to build upon the vision of rehabilitation and continue to provide the necessary resources to the men and women currently in our custody who are preparing to re-enter society. I firmly believe that if we work towards implementing lasting solutions to the problems of recidivism, programs that start the day an offender enters our system, we can improve the quality of life for the citizens of this state and stop the revolving door of re-offenders coming back to us.

As 2005 comes to an end, let's also continue to build upon the momentum of the Year of the Correctional Employee initiative. Showing appreciation to staff for a job well done and recognizing special efforts is always encouraged to boost morale and allows everyone to feel like they are part of the team.

Let's have fun and work hard, and know that here with you as part of our correctional team. I hope to see each and every one of you soon. ■

Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex Transportation Officer Larry Harris Receives Medal of Valor



On Thursday, September 22, 2005, Acting Commissioner Gayle Ray traveled to Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex in Petros to present the Department of Correction Medal of Valor to a very deserving correctional officer, Transportation Officer Larry Harris.

Not so many months ago, the practice of awarding a Medal of Valor to TDOC employees who have exhibited outstanding courage and initiative in especially trying circumstances was re-instated. The thought was that this would be a very rare presentation, yet since July 2005 this award has been presented on three separate occasions. One of these was awarded to the widow of Officer Wayne Morgan during his funeral services by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen.

Officer Larry Harris was performing his typical job duties on the morning of Tuesday, August 9, 2005, with his long-time co-worker and friend Wayne "Cotton" Morgan. However, that day turned out to be far from typical; it became a nightmare. When his partner of more than twenty years went down, Harris was called upon to do something he never expected to have to do.

"His years of training and strong sense of survival kicked in when he faced possible death at point blank range at the hand of Jennifer Hyatte," said Ray during the presentation. "Officer Harris performed and he performed very, very well."

With his wife by his side, Officer Larry Harris was presented with the Department of Correction Medal of Valor, the highest honor the department can bestow.

If you would like to recognize a deserving staff member, contact your warden for details on proper protocol for submission of nominations for the TDOC Medal of Valor or Medal of Merit. ■

Charles B. Bass Correctional Complex Opens Genesis Transition Community

On September 15, 2005, the Tennessee Department of Correction opened the state's second transition center in Nashville, Tennessee. The Genesis Transition Community, a 90-bed male program located at the Charles Bass Correctional Complex annex site, is the last segment of a two-part transition center pilot project by the division of Rehabilitative Services.



Kevin Olmstead, Melvin Alexander, Victor Creech, Anthony Morris.

Like the NewStart Transition Community, a 40-bed female program located at the Tennessee Prison for Women, Genesis follows a therapeutic community model that promotes awareness, responsibility and accountability. A multi-disciplinary Department of Correction staff made up of counseling and security are providing services to the male participants located at the Genesis transition community.

"The Genesis Transition Community is a prime example of how we continue to build upon the department's focus on rehabilitating felony offenders," said Correction Commissioner George Little. "With nearly all of the men and women in our institutions coming home one day, we need to decide how we want them when they come back to our communities. I'd like for them to return more prepared to be productive and law abiding than when they left."

The transition center program is based on a three-phase approach, lasting approximately nine months in duration. The first phase is assessment and orientation consisting of classroom and programmatic work. Phase two is stabilization and rehabilitation focusing on cognitive behavior and community service. The final phase is re-entry and employment with the key goal being job placement and work release.

In order to be eligible for the transition center program, an offender must meet the following criteria:

- Annex placement eligible (minimum security level classification)
- Referred by the Board of Probation and Parole



Genesis Participants show their community spirit.



Antonio Lloyd, Genesis Community instructor Fred Westbrook



Jose Melendez, Barry Inman

- Within 12-15 months of release eligibility date or expiration of sentence
- Must be able to perform job functions
- No class A or B disciplinary infractions within last six months
- CBCX only: Convicted in Davidson County or surrounding county

"This type of program is smart, not soft on crime," said TDOC Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services Jim Cosby. "It's a win-win for everyone. Enhanced public safety translates to fewer victims in our communities and money is saved by reducing the cost to the taxpayers when it comes to funding corrections."

Genesis Community Philosophy

We are reaching out for transformation.

A re-arrangement of all the information, collected and gathered throughout our domestication, with knowledge, wisdom and understanding we will re-organize our philosophy of life. And we will this day begin our new life, sharing experience, strength and hope keeping my brother as he keeps me. This bond will not be broken but strengthened with time.

We are a family, we are a community and it takes a family to make a community.

Written by the Genesis Transition Community participants, and is dedicated to those who are lost and didn't have the opportunity we have been given. ■

PROGRAM SERVICES FOR TRANSITION COMMUNITIES

- Job readiness/placement
- Relapse prevention
- Life skills
- Family reunification
- Victim impact awareness
- Cognitive behavioral program
- Building support teams
- Discharge planning
- Anger management
- Community Service
- Domestic violence
- Parole preparation

TRANSITION COMMUNITY PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES

- Approximately nine month program
- Provides residential transitional release services
- Assessment of criminogenic issues, substance abuse, employment and vocational training, socialization and family relationships
- Program plans for each participant in the program
- Drug testing
- Monthly program compliance reviews
- Mandatory community service
- Focus on employment and job retention
- Fees assessed to off-set costs
- Setting is a modified therapeutic community.



EDUCATION: Changing Lives, One Person at a Time

By: Sharmila Patel

In TDOC, education traditionally refers to academic and vocational classes. But education is provided by many other areas as well: substance abuse, mental health, and pre-release to name a few. And the education we provide, whatever the type, has the opportunity to change lives. On November 3, I had the opportunity to meet with six participants of the Genesis Transition Program at CBCX. They were quite a diverse group, ranging in age from twenty-three to forty-nine, but what connected all of them was their commitment to change, to improve themselves.

Three of the men received their GED while incarcerated in a TDOC facility. Ray Wingert, 29, took advantage of the education program when he first arrived to STSRFC, earning his diploma in 1995. From there, he enrolled in the upholstery vocational program, inspired by the opportunity to get a job with TRICOR.

Khalid Turner, 40, wanted to enroll in school for other reasons—"I just wanted to get off the lawn line." But time and a good teacher gave him a focus toward attaining his GED. He recalled his teacher at Morgan County as being one who insisted on "getting back to the basics." He passed the GED test on his first attempt in 1994, and the feeling was tremendous—"It was like a load was lifted off my back."

Stanley Gibson, the youngest one of the group at age 23, earned his GED at Northwest Correctional Complex in April of this year. He admits that while he was "playing around at first," he focused and changed his way of thinking.

Education also has a place in the Genesis Program, giving men who do not have a GED or diploma an opportunity to earn one. Mrs. Debbie Coleman teaches an ABE/GED class there once a week.

And in this program are men who are looking forward to the opportunity to learn! Tyrone Lyles, 49, is excited about getting his GED, saying that it is long overdue. Clarence Evans, 26, talked about his history of being "in and out of school." He sees his current class as "all right" and says, "I know I need my GED." Travis Porter is continuing his education classes at CBCX, having begun at Northwest. He tells me about his experience in Mr. Coleman Crocker's class. "He taught me a lot, and gradually, I started liking it." He passed his pre-GED test while at Northwest and is eager to take the test.



For all of these men, having a GED is important but merely a starting point. All the men are engaging in Phase I programming at the Transition Center. Wingert says earning a GED "proved that I could do anything." He looks to one day having his

own business. Turner is currently taking correspondence coursework in carpentry, and while he calls the seventeen years spent incarcerated "wasted," he says he's "looking forward more than looking back." Gibson is ready to further his education, looking to enroll in college. Evans would like to own a business selling cars. Porter wants to be a salesman. Lyles says his goals are to get a GED and go back into professions in which he has experience: automobile, small engine, or appliance repair.

All of the men spoke very positively of the Phase I programming in the Genesis program. More than one person called the experience "intense," but all were glad to be a part of it. After leaving our meeting and walking away, I thought about my afternoon, and I realized I was glad to be a part of it too. ■

George Little...cont.

provided oversight of the administrative functions of the division, including the preparation of the division's operating and capital budgets and general oversight of the day-to-day operations of the division.

"George's career in the corrections system spans more than two decades, with a majority of that time spent working in leadership roles for the State of Tennessee," said Bredesen. "I am confident that the wealth of experience he brings to this role, along with his frontline knowledge of our state's correctional system, makes him the ideal next leader of the Tennessee Department of Correction."

"I appreciate the opportunity Governor Bredesen has given me to use my background knowledge and years of experience to lead this valuable state department," Little said. "Governor Bredesen and I share a common vision for the role correction plays in our state, and I look forward to working with him and with the

dedicated employees of this department in my new role." Little, a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-native, has dedicated much of his professional career to correctional administration and management. Prior to working as the Director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections, he served for four years as the Assistant to the Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, and prior to that, spent nine years working as the Regional Director of the Delta Probation Region of the Tennessee Department of Correction. Prior to that, he worked as Assistant Commissioner for the Department under Governor Ned McWherter. His career in Tennessee began under the administration of Governor Lamar Alexander, where he worked as an Assistant to the Governor in the Office of State Planning.

Little received a B.A. in Economic and Business Administration from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., in 1977, and completed graduate coursework in Economics with a concentration in urban and regional development at the University of Texas at Austin from 1977 to 1979. ■

PROJECT EDISON:

State Government's "Brightest" Idea

By: Ingrid Brown Special Projects Manager/ERP Liaison

Tennessee is making its mark. Our state is not only making itself a viable presence in the global business community (Welcome Nissan North America, Inc.), but state government is also giving its internal business practices an "extreme makeover." Key leadership from various agencies within state government is nipping and tucking away the old for the new and has unveiled its thoroughly researched plan to revolutionize how it currently does business.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is the process that will integrate most of the state's core systems in the areas of Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, Payroll, and Benefits. This endeavor appropriately named "Project Edison" will replace several of the states antiquated systems that are an estimated 20 to 30 years old such STARS, TOPS, POST Data Capture, etc. and various administrative business processes. The prevailing message that has been conveyed by the Edison Project team is that this effort is not an IT project, not just a systems change, but an overhaul of state government business practices that will:

- Improve interagency communication and productivity
- Expedite and allow for more efficient administrative processes
- Decrease repetitive transactions and paperwork

So, what does this mean for the Department of Correction? As with all state agencies, we must begin preparing for the transition. Although the first area to make the business change over, (Human Resources and Payroll) is not scheduled to "go live" until December 2007, departmental teams have been formed to:

- Support, promote and press forward the initiatives of the Project Edison Team
- Facilitate change for this comprehensive project
- Provide the Project Edison team with any information about our current systems and internal processes that will help address specific, customization needs by deadline
- Prepare every TDOC employee for this endeavor and provide as much information on the front end as possible.

So, as the cliché goes, "Change is a Comin'." A timely change. Commissioner George Little has openly expressed his complete support for the project and has encouraged TDOC management and staff to embrace the forthcoming changes. As the project progresses in the upcoming months, information sessions will be scheduled. To obtain more information or updates on Project Edison, look out for the newsletter, "The Edison Report", visit the ERP intranet site at <http://intranet@state.tn.us/erp> or submit your questions or suggestions via e-mail to Edison@state.tn.us. ■

Retirement News

It is with mixed emotions that the Department of Correction Central Office announces the retirement of Sentence Management Director Roberta Anderson and Director of Engineering Tom Giese. Both Tom and Roberta have dedicated themselves to the service of the state of Tennessee and will be greatly missed!

Roberta Anderson



Roberta began her state service in March 1974 at Turney Center Industrial Prison as a clerk in the record office. In July 1980, she left Turney Center and worked for a county agency until 1983. At that time, she returned to Turney Center as a clerk in the Business Office and remained there until March 1996.

Roberta has been in the Sentence Management division of Central Office since March 1996. Anderson said that the department is very fortunate to have such great records personnel in the institutions and central office. Anderson's official retirement date is November 30, 2005. She has made many close friends at TDOC and she will be missed.

Tom Giese

Tom Giese started his career with the state of Tennessee on January 1, 1982. He said he answered an ad in the Nashville Tennessean newspaper and Commissioner Harold Bradley hired him. Tom has worked for nine commissioners, deputies or assistant commissioners since then.



"A whisker more than half the beds we now have were built during that period," Giese said. "I think I'm most proud of the last ones for the Morgan expansion because they were the hardest to accomplish and took the most team effort. They will be completed long after I'm gone."

Giese also added that he leaves knowing Correction is a good place to work, along side good people to work with, and with the full knowledge that we did something worthwhile.

His last day in the office will be December 22, 2005, but his official retirement date will be March 1, 2006. ■

Statewide News

WEST TENNESSEE

WTSP- In August, WTSP hosted a group of international fellows who traveled to Tennessee from all over the world for a tour of the facility. Local Judge Herman Reviere, in conjunction with the National Defense University, hosts this group on an annual basis.

WTSP sent two van loads of items donated from staff for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Staff donated \$336.00 and the inmate donations totaled \$1285.89.



MLCC- On Friday, May 6, 2005, MLCC joined with the neighboring county and federal correctional facilities at a Correctional Ball at the Cannon Center in downtown Memphis. The theme for the event was "A Correctional Evolution." This event held to recognize deserving co-workers within this profession. MLCC honored Josephine Smith, Correctional Employee of the Year and Jim Herrman, Correctional Supervisor of the Year for the outstanding performance and dedication to the Department of Correction. This event also emphasized the importance of partnerships, fellowship, and comradeship.



NWCX- The vocational classes and institutional work crews have been busy this fall completing projects for the local

community. Instructor Steve Jones and his vocational class are currently constructing an office building for the City of Tiptonville which will be used as the Tiptonville Police Department.



Correctional Officer Chris Wright and his institutional work crew are constructing a new batting cage at the Tiptonville Recreational Complex. This batting cage will be beneficial to the local baseball/softball teams during the 2006 season. Also, Instructor Gerald Bell and his vocational class have recently completed putting a new roof on the Ridgely City Hall building.

WCBC – Wayne County Boot Camp Correctional Officer Karen Chamber's house was completely destroyed by fire on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at approximately 2 a.m. WCBC employees immediately began to help out and were able to collect over \$600.00. Karen stated that had it not been for her friends at WCBC helping out so quickly that her children would have had to miss a lot of school. However, with the generosity of her co-workers she was able to take her kids shopping for school clothes and they were back in school in two days. On Thursday, October 20, 2005 the employees of WCBC honored Karen with a shower and she received many useful household gifts. Karen is very appreciative of everything that Wayne County Boot Camp employees have done and said that she will always remember every act of kindness shown to her and her children. ■

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

DSNF- On Wednesday, September 28, 2005, Warden Bob Waller and "morale officer" Brenda Maxwell treated the entire DeBerry Special Needs Facility Food Service staff to lunch away from the prison. In order show his appreciation for the food service staff, the warden wanted to treat them to a meal that they didn't have to prepare!

CBCX- CBCX was proud to recognize one of their own on November 1, 2005. Ms. Elaine Murdock has put in forty (40) years of service to the State of Tennessee. Ms. Murdock began her tenure with the state on November 1, 1965, working at the Tennessee State Training School. She moved to NCSC in 1972 and then on to the



old main prison in 1974, where she continued to work until the prison closed in 1992, at which time she moved to DeBerry Special Needs. In 1995, she moved to the new NCSC and worked there until 1997 when NCSC merged with Middle Tennessee Correctional Complex.

Ms. Murdock has worked in the business office at all of these facilities as an accounting clerk. She is dedicated to her job and is a welcomed staff member. Charles Bass is very happy to have her on their team. Ms. Murdock enjoys her job and is not planning to leave any time soon. She says she has had a very enjoyable work experience and has worked with many nice people.

Cont. next page

Statewide News Continued

MIDDLE TENNESSEE continued...

RMSI- In late September, Officer Henry Campbell and Corporal Terry Puckett presented funds to the American Red Cross collected at RMSI for victims of Hurricane Katrina. A total of \$1,133.02 was raised: the inmates donated \$601.02 from their trust funds, Security donated \$432.00, and Hattie Puckett (sister of Cpl. Terry Puckett) donated \$100.00.



TPFW- TPFW continues to do their part to help the Louisiana Department of Correction staff members that became victims of Hurricane Katrina. On October 1, they hosted a benefit car wash, bake sale, and popcorn sale.



On October 28, staff hosted another benefit car wash, along with a BBQ chicken and ribs luncheon available with a \$5.00 minimum donation.

Congratulations to Cheryl Donaldson who was promoted to Unit Manager for Units 2 and 3 on September 1, and Alice Caruthers who was promoted to Administrative Assistant 2 - Accreditation Manager on November 1, 2005.

TCIP- On October 4, 2005, TCIP recognized approximately 50 volunteers who dedicate their time and resources toward helping the inmates of Turney Center. Richard Dixon, TDOC Director of Volunteer Services, was the guest speaker. All organizations providing volunteer services were recognized with a banquet dinner prepared by Turney Center staff.

TCA- On Friday, October 14, the Academy held its annual "Oktoberfest" Employee Appreciation Day. Activities included an auction, karaoke, horseshoes, bingo, and a smoked Boston butt barbeque dinner. Service anniversary awards were presented by Commissioner George Little to Academy employees Vanessa Steele, Steve Jolly, Anna Lannan, Sharon Dickson, Billy Reid, Robert Croteau and Sandy Rees. In addition to Commissioner Little, special guests included Assistant Commissioners Roland Colson and Cathy Posey, as well as Judy Lambert and Garland Johnson.



On October 17, the Academy welcomed two new employees: Security Officer Terry Key and RN Yvonne Montgomery. Officer Key comes to the Academy from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna. Nurse Montgomery served as a nurse at Middle Tennessee State University prior to joining our ranks. ■

EAST TENNESSEE

STSRCF- Earlier this year, STSRCF received a request from the Stanley Valley Volunteer Fire Department in Hawkins Co. to repair and paint a fire truck for the department. The truck arrived at the facility on June 15, 2005. The work was performed by the STSRCF maintenance department supervised by Maintenance Worker Eddie Beard who has expertise in auto body work and painting. The work was completed in late July, and the fire department notified the prison that they would pick up the vehicle on August 10, 2005.

On that day, Senator Mike Williams, who represents the Hawkins Co. area, came to the facility to be on hand when the fire department received the vehicle. Congratulations to everyone that made this project a success!



NECX- NECX is proud of their involvement in the relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We sent a total of three fully-loaded vans to the victims that included ten bushels of potatoes from the garden, baby

diapers/baby clothing, children's toys/children's clothing, adult clothing and household items such as blankets-pillows and non-perishable food items.

The total cash raised was over \$2,000 with the inmates raising \$1,380. The inmates were so concerned about the victims and wanted to know how they could help. There was a great response and it made the inmates feel good to help.

BMCX- BMCX has recognized one department each month throughout the year in conjunction with "The Year of the Correctional Employee." They have had a variety of menus or events just to keep it interesting including a breakfast burrito bar, lasagna and salad, Mexican fajitas and Spanish rice, cookouts, and made-to-order pizzas. Drawings were held each month and a lucky winner was presented with a leather folder made in our arts and crafts shop. A pancake breakfast for all employees is being planned for December.

The staff at BMCX would like to extend a very hearty welcome to our employees who are returning from Iraq: AW/O Jim Morrow, Sgt. J. W. Hamby, Officers Mike Goddard, Jerry Ford, Jerry Wright and Jason Hamby. Thank you and God bless you for your service to our country. We can't wait to have you back at work! ■

Wayne "Cotton" Morgan...cont.

thanks to everyone who participated in providing care and comfort to the family and friends of Cotton Morgan.

The staff at Brushy Mountain have recently stated that the greatness of any community is measured by the greatness of the individuals who make up that community. The greatness of those individuals is measured by their ability to bind together in times of crisis. The people of Morgan County and the surrounding area have proven their greatness by the way they have closed ranks to comfort a hurting member.



About Cotton

Wayne Thomas "Cotton" Morgan, 56, started his career with TDOC on August 8, 1977. A 28-year veteran of Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex and the state of Tennessee, Morgan's life tragically ended on August 9, 2005.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Fred and Mindy Hall Stewart, John and Alice Morgan; father, Guy E. Morgan; brother, Richard and David Morgan; brothers-in-law, Gerald Turner and Leslie Rickers.

Cotton was a dedicated Christian serving his church, Meadowview Baptist, as deacon, Sunday school teacher, choir member, as well as singing duets with his wife.

He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, was wounded and received a Purple Heart.

In his spare time, he worked in his gardens (flower and vegetable). Once a month, he visited a Lifecare Center in Wartburg to minister to the patients. He also did a jail ministry at the Wartburg jail each Thursday evening.

He is survived in death by his wife, Vianne Bunch Morgan; children, Dennis Wayne Morgan and Carla Keeton and her husband Tracy;

two grandchildren, Cole and Halie; mother, Cordia Morgan; brothers, John and his wife Rita of Wartburg, James and wife Terri of Wartburg, J.C.; sisters, Rose Rickers of Bowie, MD, Genevieve Morgan of Pikeville, Wilma Riley, Yvonne Turner and Gail Burgess; a host of nieces and nephews, friends and co-workers who loved him dearly. He is also survived by his close friend and partner for many years at Brushy Mountain, Larry Harris (Officer Harris was transporting inmate Hyatte with Officer Morgan when Officer Morgan was shot and later died.)

Military honors from his Army service: Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device and National Defense Service Medal.

He served one year with the National Guard. He was nominated for correctional officer of the year with the International Association of Correctional Officers.

TDOC Credits:

- Charter Member of the Brushy Tact Team
- Brushy Man-Tracking Team
- Attended Riot Control Training Sponsored by FBI
- Certified NRA Police Firearms Instructor ■

INTRODUCING...Jesse Neely

On November 16, 2005, Jesse Neely joined the department's central office as the executive assistant to Commissioner Little. Jesse comes to the Department of Correction with over ten years of service to the state of Tennessee.



Prior to TDOC, he was a financial analyst for the Department of Financial Institutions working in the compliance division. Before joining Financial Institutions, Neely was a compliance officer for the Department of Transportation in the Civil Rights Division. He has also served as a grants administrator with the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the fiscal officer/personnel officer for the Tennessee Human Rights Commission.

However, his very first stint in state government was with the Tennessee Board of Regents' system working at Tennessee State University as a Residence Hall Director for two facilities. Neely has also worked in the private sector as a small business consultant for a non-profit agency and as a community liaison and assistant to the president of a local construction company.

Neely is married with two children (a 5 year-old son and 1 year-old daughter) who are the joy of their father. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with family, working in his church, officiating sports on all different levels, performing other community and civic activities through his civic organization, listening to music (especially jazz) and any other stress-free activity.

Please welcome Jesse to the TDOC family! ■

Tennessee Prison for Women Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the NewStart Transition Center on August 26, 2005

Tennessee Department of Correction Acting Commissioner Gayle Ray, along with representatives of the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, August 26, 2005 to celebrate the opening of the state's first transition center for female offenders at the Tennessee Prison for Women annex.

"The Department of Correction has recently undergone a change in philosophy, shifting our focus to rehabilitating inmates instead

innovative transitional community," said Brenda Wynn, YWCA Board Chair. "We are particularly excited about extending the program time for in-depth focus on treatment, employment and re-entry services as well as family reunification and connection to community resources. The YW is a starting point for women who have faced multiple barriers, and this enhanced NewStart program will significantly increase the chances for these women to succeed as they transition back into our communities."



of warehousing them," said Ray. "With 97 percent of the offender population returning to the communities they came from one day, corrections is everybody's business. With this in mind, there is a definite need to place more of an emphasis on treatment, employment assistance and job retention for offenders in order to reduce recidivism."

The NewStart Transition Community, a 40-bed female program, follows a therapeutic community program structure designed to promote awareness, responsibility and accountability. The Department of Correction is partnering with the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee to provide services to the transition community participants through a state grant.

"The YW is honored to partner with the Department of Correction for this

The goal of this program is to improve public safety by reducing recidivism, therefore reducing the likelihood of creating more victims in the community, improve the quality of life for the offender and her family, and ultimately save the state money. The department aims to reduce recidivism by at least 10 percent amongst the participants in the program.

The Tennessee Prison for Women NewStart Transition Community is one of two centers slated to open this year as part of a TDOC Division of Rehabilitative Services pilot project. A 90-bed transition center for male offenders opened in mid-September for male offenders at the Charles Bass Correctional Complex Annex in Nashville. ■

Close-up on

Pat Crockett



Just in case you haven't heard...Pat's back! On Monday, October 17, 2005, Commissioner George Little announced the return of long-time correction executive secretary Pat Crockett to the TDOC family.

Pat leaves behind the fabulous life of retirement that she's enjoyed for the past two years. Her career with the department spans more than 30 years and eight commissioners! Her wealth of knowledge and high level of professionalism provided for a smooth transition back into her former position.

Pat's office is located on the 4th floor of the Rachel Jackson Building. Let's offer her a warm welcome home. ■

TDOC Newsline

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